AVATAR
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ISSUE 1
VARIANT
LOOKERS

LOOKERS™

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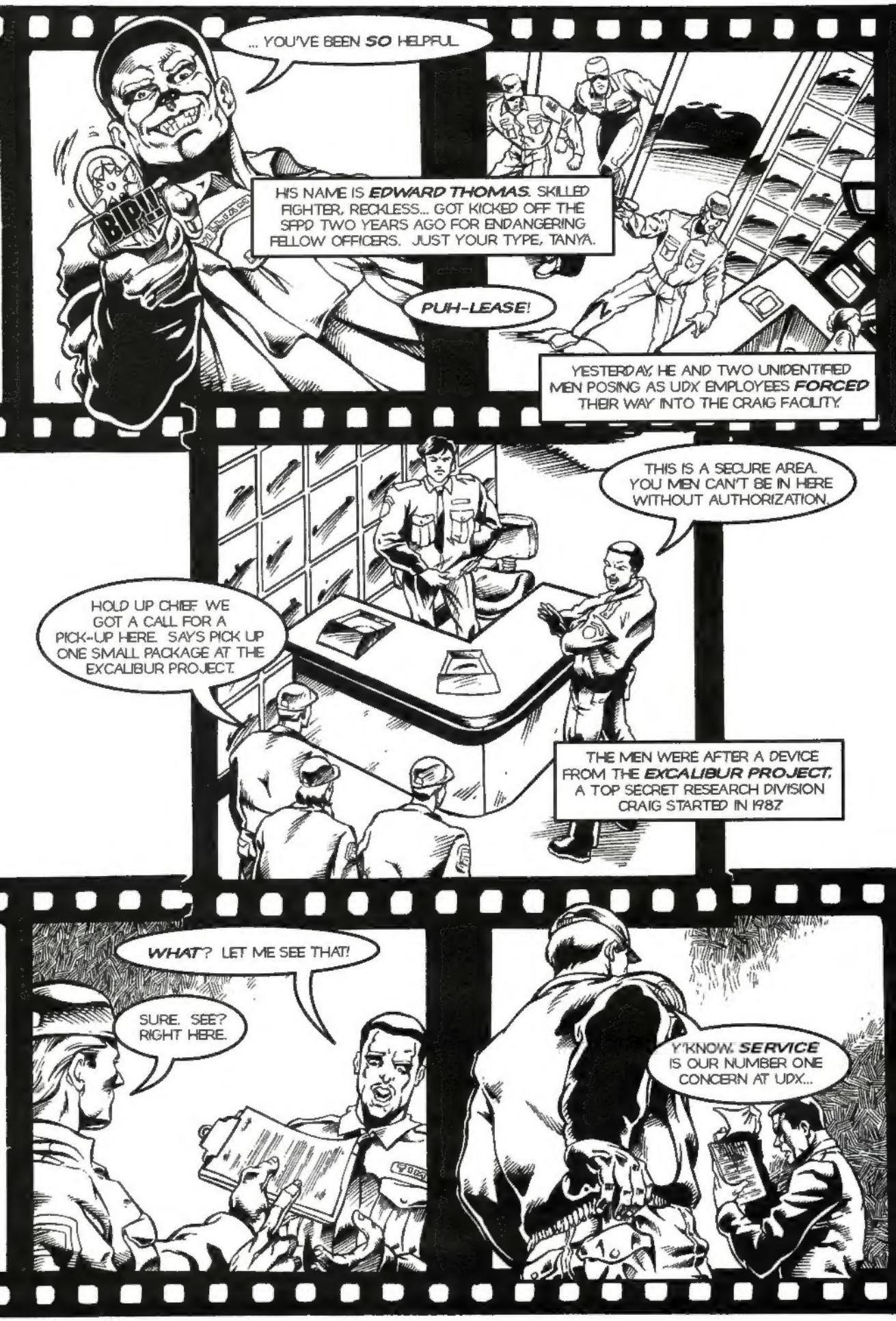
COME ON GEORGE! YOU'RE GONNA LIKE THIS ONE.
WE'RE GOING ON A BUG HUNT!
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE! AND YOU GUYS KNOW I DON'T LIKE THESE MEETINGS... I'D RATHER BE IN THE LAB...
ALIENS OR NO ALIENS!
THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE A BUG HUNT!
BUT SHE'S RIGHT GEORGE... YOU ARE GOING TO LIKE THIS ONE.
THIS TAPE IS EDITED FOOTAGE FROM SECURITY CAMERAS INSIDE CRAIG RESEARCH, AN R AND D LAB IN REDMOND, WASHINGTON...
OH MY GOD! WE'RE BEING INVADED BY UNITED DELIVERY EXPRESS MEN! WONDER HOW THEY FOUND US HALF-WAY ACROSS THE GALAXY WHEN THEY CAN'T FIND THAT PACKAGE I SENT TO MOM LAST...
HA HA!
DON'T ENCOURAGE HER GEORGE!
...THIS IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL, BUT I'LL CHECK IF ANYONE HERE LOGGED THE CALL.
I APPRECIATE THAT...


... YOU'VE BEEN SO HELPFUL.
BIP!!!
HIS NAME IS EDWARD THOMAS. SKILLED FIGHTER, RECKLESS... GOT KICKED OFF THE SFPD TWO YEARS AGO FOR ENDANGERING FELLOW OFFICERS. JUST YOUR TYPE, TANYA.
PUH-LEASE!
YESTERDAY, HE AND TWO UNIDENTIFIED MEN POSING AS UDX EMPLOYEES FORCED THEIR WAY INTO THE CRAIG FACILITY.
THIS IS A SECURE AREA. YOU MEN CAN'T BE IN HERE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.
HOLD UP CHIEF. WE GOT A CALL FOR A PICK-UP HERE. SAYS PICK UP ONE SMALL PACKAGE AT THE EXCALIBUR PROJECT.
THE MEN WERE AFTER A DEVICE FROM THE EXCALIBUR PROJECT, A TOP SECRET RESEARCH DIVISION CRAIG STARTED IN 1987.
WHAT? LET ME SEE THAT!
SURE. SEE? RIGHT HERE.
Y'KNOW, SERVICE IS OUR NUMBER ONE CONCERN AT UDX...

SO WE'RE MAKING THIS PICK-UP WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!
THUNK!!
A-ALRIGHT, YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT..
PRACTICALLY NOTHING WAS GOING ON AT THE EXCALIBUR PROJECT UNTIL TWO WEEKS AGO, WHEN THEY SUDDENLY HAD A BREAKTHROUGH IN THEIR RESEARCH...
WHAP!!
... AND ALL HELL STARTED BREAKING LOOSE.
KRACK!
TAKE IT EASY, MAN! BROOKS'LL FREAK IF WE HURT ANYONE TOO BAD

"BROOKS" IS DR. RICHARD BROOKS, THEIR MAN ON THE INSIDE. HE'S CRAIG RESEARCH'S VERSION OF YOU, GEORGE. PHD FROM STANFORD.. A MULTI-TALENTED GENIUS.
HE'S THE ONE WHO SOLD CRAIG THEIR LITTLE "TOY" IN '87. THEY PROMPTLY STARTED EXCALIBUR TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE THING, WITH BROOKS SPEARHEADING THE PROJECT.
SORRY, JOHN... BUT I CAN'T LET THIS GO ANY FURTHER.
... HE AND HIS FRIENDS LEFT WITH THE MECHANISM YESTERDAY.
WAIT A MINUTE.. JUST WHAT WAS TAKEN, HERE? WHAT IS THIS "TOY"?
THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM, GEORGE...
THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM.

IT'S AN ALIEN ARTIFACT. BROOKS' GRANDFATHER DUG IT OUT OF A FIELD IN ARIZONA IN 1947.
...HE TOLD THE AUTHORITIES BACK THEN, BUT NOBODY BELIEVED IT, OF COURSE.
... DO YOU BELIEVE IT?
CRAIG RESEARCH DOES. THEY WANT IT BACK BADLY...AND THEY'RE PAYING ENOUGH THAT IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT I BELIEVE.
BUT HERE, YOU SORT IT OUT...
...HERE'S SOME DATA AND SPECS ON THE THING... I, UH, CHARMED THIS OUT OF A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT CRAIG.
THINK YOU CAN MAKE A TRACKING DEVICE, OR SOMETHING?
NOW YOU'VE GOT MY INTEREST!
LET'S SEE... ACCORDING TO THIS, THE DEVICE IS POWERED BY A...
SAVE IT FOR THE DISCOVER CHANNEL, GEORGE. WHAT DOES THIS THING DO, ANYWAY?
IT'S A WEAPON...

... A HAND-HELD WEAPON WHICH THE CEO OF CRAIG GIDDLY DESCRIBED TO ME AS HAVING "ALL THE POWER OF A NUCLEAR WARHEAD, WITH NO BITTER AFTERTASTE"
I DON'T THINK HE FULLY APPRECIATES THE GRAVITY OF HIS SITUATION.
BROOKS LEFT A "FAREWELL" NOTE AT CRAIG -- SAYS HE PLANS TO HIDE THE THING. HE MAINTAINS THAT IT'S TOO POWERFUL TO BE IN HUMAN HANDS, AND NOW HE'S SORRY HE EVER BROUGHT IT TO CRAIG.
BAD NEWS. I'VE ALREADY GOT AN ALL-OVER TAN.
WELL, HE AND HIS PALS DIDN'T KILL ANYONE WHILE STEALING IT. MAYBE...
I THINK YOU TWO SHOULD HEAD DOWN TO THE BROOKS FARM... TALK TO THE GRANDFATHER. FIND OUT...
WHAT!?
THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON ON THE PLANET IS STOLEN, AND WE'RE GOING FARMING!?
WE NEED TO...
YOU NEED TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHO YOU'RE UP AGAINST...
... MAYBE THERE'S NO BEACH IN ARIZONA, BUT THERE'S LOTS AND LOTS OF SUN!
...SO I HOPE YOU'LL STUDY THESE DOSSIERS I'VE PREPARED ON THE PLANE RIDE DOWN THERE, INSTEAD OF READING VOGUE LIKE YOU USUALLY DO!
AW, COME ON, TANYA - LET'S GET GOING...
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IF THESE NUMBERS MEAN WHAT I THINK THEY MEAN, I THINK IT COULD SOON BE HOT AND DRY IN A LOT OF PLACES BESIDES ARIZONA.

FIVE HOURS LATER...
...AND THEN IT SAYS THAT BROOKS GRADUATED WITH HONORS, GOT THE JOB AT CRAIG RESEARCH... AND THE REST WE KNOW.
HUH. NOT MUCH TO GO ON.
LET'S SEE IF WE HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON HIS ACCOMPLICES.
OSCAR'S SUPPOSED TO EMAIL ME IF HE'S DUG UP ANYTHING ELSE.
WHAT'S THIS? NEW MODEM?
NOT QUITE. IT'S THE ARTIFACT TRACKING DEVICE THAT GEORGE BUILT. HE SAYS IT'LL WORK IF WE GET WITHIN TWO MILES OF THE THING.
HERE WE GO. EDWARD THOMAS WAS INVOLVED IN STUDENT PROTESTS FOR VARIOUS ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAUSES AT STANFORD.
HMM. I HAVE A FEELING OUR CONVERSATION WITH BROOKS' GRANDFATHER IS GOING TO BE EVEN MORE USEFUL THAN WE THOUGHT.

AT THE BROOKS FARM...
HELLO? MR. BROOKS? HELLO?
NO ANSWER. WEIRD.
HE SAID HE'D BE HERE WHEN I PHONED FROM THE AIRPORT.
WELL, THE DOOR'S OPEN.
MAYBE HE'S JUST HARD OF HEARING OR...
...SOMETHING?!?
GEE, YOU'D THINK IF HE WAS EXPECTING VISITORS HE'D TIDY THE PLACE UP A BIT.
I THINK HE GOT SOME VISITORS HE WASN'T EXPECTING, TANYA.
HMM... SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, ASTRONOMY JOURNAL...
SEEMS LIKE HARDCORE STUFF FOR AN OLD FARMER.

JUST BECAUSE YOU NEVER READ ANYTHING MORE CHALLENGING THAN VOGUE DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERYONE ELSE IS THAT WAY.
HERE'S A MORE REVEALING CLUE, SHERLOCK.
BLOOD
LOOKS LIKE HE WAS FIXING DINNER.
MAYBE HE JUST CUT HIMSELF?
WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THIS MESS?
Y'KNOW, I'VE GONE OUT WITH A FEW GUYS WHO TRASHED THEIR PLACES CONSTANTLY.
TANYA. WE'RE TALKING A 70 YEAR OLD MAN HERE. I DON'T THINK..
WHA..?
I THINK YOU TWO ARE THINKING TOO MUCH.
NOW COME ALONG QUIETLY.

SEE MICHELLE?
I WAS *RIGHT.*
THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS..
AAAARGH!
OOOF!
IS JUST ANOTHER *LOSER*..
SSHHMMAAACK!!
..WHO LIKES TO *TRASH* THINGS!
YOU WANT THIS, MICHELLE?
YOU'RE THE *MARKSMAN* HERE.
NO THANKS. BROUGHT MY *OWN*.

OOOO... THE MICHELLE SPECIAL!
NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOU BEING RIGHT, MISS SMARTASS? WE GONNA HAVE TO CHECK YOUR LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR SUSPECTS?
KERASH!!
BRAKA
BRAKA
BRAKA
YOW!!
NEVER PISSED OFF A GUY THIS BAD!
WELL, I'M ONLY GONNA WOUND THIS GUY. JUST IN CASE.
DON'T BE NICE ON MY ACCOUNT!
I SEE HIM. HE'S OVER 200 YARDS AWAY.
HE'S LUCKY HE HIT THE WINDOW.
BUT I DON'T NEED LUCK TO HIT THE BROAD SIDE OF A BARN!
BLAM!!

UGH!
THWIP!
I'M HIT!
HOW IN THE HELL...??!
DON'T MATTER.
WE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR. LET'S BOLT.
I WINGED HIM.
LET'S GET AFTER THEM BEFORE THEY...
... GET AWAY.
DAMN.
HEAR THAT? MAYBE THEY DIDN'T ALL GET AWAY.
COVER ME.
I'VE GOT YOU.
CRRREEEAAAKKK!!!

OOOOHHH, WHAT A DAY.. I HOPE YER THE GALS THAT PHONED ME EARLIER, AND NOT SOMEBODY IN WITH THEM OTHER FELLAS.
MR. BROOKS?!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'M A TINKERER. RECKON THAT'S WHERE M'GRANDSON RICHARD GETS IT FROM.
THOSE BOYS WERE AFTER THE NOTES I TOOK ON THAT ALIEN DEVICE OVER THE YEARS - GODDAMNED THAT EDDIE THOMAS!
WAIT A MINUTE.. YOU KNOW EDWARD THOMAS!?
HELL, YES.
NEVER TRUSTED THAT SUM'BITCH. RICHARD ROOMED WITH HIM AT STANFORD.
THIS IS ALL STARTING TO MAKE SENSE TO ME.
NOW LET'S SEE IF OUR NEW FRIEND HERE CAN PUT THE FINAL PIECES IN THE PUZZLE.

AN ABANDONED FACTORY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PHOENIX
...NOW LET ME SEE.
THE INSTRUMENTS SHOW THAT THE FIRING SEQUENCE MODULE IS CONTROLLED BY THIS CHIP HERE...
YOU BUGGIN' ME WITH YOUR WILD-ASSED IDEAS ABOUT THIS THING YOUR GRANDAD FOUND. ME DRIVIN' YOU CRAZY WITH MY POLITICAL THEORY...
BUT WE STILL GOT TOGETHER TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THIS ALIEN WEAPON
.. SO IF I CAN DISCONNECT THAT CHIP THEN WE CAN..
WELL RICHIE, DID YOU EVER THINK IT WOULD COME TO THIS WHEN WE WERE ROOMMATES AT SCHOOL?
WELL... WE HAVEN'T SAVED ANYONE YET.
THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF DISABLING IT SO IT CAN'T BE USED BY ANYONE.
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING NOW

WHAT!?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D START ON THAT BEFORE I...
...THAT IS, I THOUGHT WE AGREED IT WASN'T SAFE TO DO THAT UNTIL WE REACHED MY BASE
IT WASN'T MY IDEA TO DETOUR THROUGH ARIZONA
UH... THIS ROUTE WAS CHOSEN FOR... SECURITY REASONS.
WELL, THAT'S WHY I'M DEACTIVATING THIS THING NOW, TOO.
SEE THIS CHIP HERE? IT CONTROLS THE DEVICE'S FIRING SEQUENCE.
I'M IN THE PROCESS OF DISCONNECTING ALL THE LEADS TO IT NOW.
IN THE MEANTIME, I MUSTN'T BE INTERRUPTED BECAUSE...
SORRY, RICHIE-- BUT I'M INTERRUPTIN' YOU NOW.

NEARBY.
WE GOT A LOCK!
SEE THAT OLD FACTORY DOWN THAT SIDE ROAD? THAT MUST BE IT.
BEEEP!
YOU READY TO TELL ME WHAT WE'RE GETTING OURSELVES INTO NOW?
OSCAR FINALLY IDENTIFIED OUR PERP BACK AT THE BROOKS' FARM AS A MEMBER OF A MILITANT TERRORIST GROUP CALLED RANDOM ACTS OF TERROR. THOMAS IS PROBABLY ALSO A MEMBER.
R.A.T. HUH? CUTE.
VERY - BUT NOT TOO SMART. THE GUY WE CAUGHT HAD A RECEIPT FROM A GROCERY STORE NEAR HERE - THAT MADE THEM EASY TO FIND WITH OUR TRACKING DEVICE.
SEE THAT BACK ENTRANCE? PULL AROUND THERE.
SO THESE RATS... WHAT DO THEY WANT?
WHO KNOWS? THEY'RE VERY SECLUSIVE - THE WHOLE SECRET SOCIETY BIT.
YOU CAN ASK EDWARD THOMAS WHEN WE FIND HIM!

THOMAS, YOU *BASTARD*! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
RIGHT NOW, I WANT YOU TO HOOK THAT GIZMO BACK UP *PROPER*.
SHOULDA LISTENED TO YOUR GRANDPA, BROOKS. HE *TOLD* YOU NOT TO TRUST THIS *JERK* YEARS AGO!
YEAH. SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T MIND YOUR ELDERS?
THEY'RE *DEAD* WHOEVER THEY ARE.
WHO?

SORRY PAL, CAN'T LET YOU PUT A BULLET HOLE IN THIS OUTFIT.
GET AWAY FROM THAT THING, BROOKS.
I KNOW YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN USED HERE, BUT I CAN'T TRUST YOU JUST YET.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THIS DESIGNER ACTION GEAR COSTS!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'M IN THE PROCESS OF REMOVING THE DEVICE'S CONTROL CHIP.
RIGHT NOW IT'S PARTIALLY DISCONNECTED, MAKING THE DEVICE UNSTABLE. IF THE THING EVEN GETS JOSTLED NOW, ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN!
WHAT?!

HA! I THOUGHT TERRORISTS WOULD BE TOUGHER!
MOST OF MY DATES ARE ROUGHER THAN THIS.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS YOU BITCH!
TANYA!
TANYA, STOP!
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP FIGHTING NOW!
WHA..?
WHAM!
UGH!!
OH...

... NO.
SKSZZZZZZZZ!
THOOOM!!!
TO BE CONTINUED?

AVATAR IMPRESSIONS

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CHECKLIST

ON SALE NOW

[X] **Lookers #1**

Sisters Michelle & Tanya Nichols operate Complete Recovery Inc., a detective agency specializing in retrieving the lost, the stolen, and the missing. This issue, the Lookers are hired to recover what is believed to be an alien weapon of immense power.

[X] **Lookers #1 Nude Variant Edition**

Limited to 1000 copies with an all-new cover by Karl Waller.

[X] **Donna Mia #2**

As Donna Mia continues her quest for a place in the modern world, she is confronted by the nightmare side of the American dream when she encounters a conspiracy theorist on the Fourth of July. But the demoness to make you forget other girls will not go quietly into the night! If big brother is watching, he's probably enjoying it!

[X] **Donna Mia #2 Limited Foil Variant**

Featuring a painted alternate cover by Trevlin Utz.

[X] **Pandora #2**

In this monsterious second issue, Pandora confronts a treacherous ally, battles the Demon Marksmen, and learns the true power of the GunDevil! Can she stop all of these foes and keep her worst nightmare from coming to Earth?

[X] **Pandora #2 Limited Foil Variant**

Featuring a cool alternate cover by Richard Pollard!

COMING NEXT MONTH

[X] **Furies #0**

Available with four different covers!

[X] **Furies #0 Nude**

[X] **Twilight #1**

[X] **Twilight #1 Nude**

[X] **Donna Mia #3**

[X] **Donna Mia #3 Limited**

Variant cover with foil logo limited to 1250.

[X] **Lookers #2**

[X] **Lookers #2 Limited**

Variant cover with foil logo limited to 1250.

[X] **Lookers #1 Signed**

With Avatar Authentic foil stamp on cover, includes certificate of authenticity. Ltd to 500.

NEWS: Top of the news this month is our recently signed licensing agreement with new toy, card, and merchandise manufacturer Bolt Entertainment. You can expect to see statues, toys, cards, etc. featuring your favorite Avatar characters beginning about the middle of 1997. As always, check with your retailer or on our web site for the latest details. • Avatar Press would like to welcome Raff Ienco's Webwitch to our family of creator-owned titles. Raff is an outstanding talent - as both a writer and artist - and Webwitch looks to be a break-away hit. • Don't forget to check with your retailer about ordering our March titles, which are available for pre-order through the Diamond Comics Distributor's Previews catalog that is available as you read this. And if you haven't ordered your February Avatar books yet, your retailer may still be able to get a reorder on those books if he acts quickly. That's a wrap for this month, but watch out for news on a big company crossover in the next Avatar Impressions.

VIEWS: We would like to thank everyone for all the cards, letters, artwork, and emails that have been coming in to Avatar Central in response to to our debut books. We truly appreciate the support and feedback, so keep it coming! • Many readers have been wondering about our submissions guidelines. We do consider submissions for artists, inkers, and creator-owned projects, and we will have some guidelines posted on our web site shortly. If you don't have web access, just drop us a line if you'd like to submit something. • Don't forget to spread the word about Avatar Press if you dig our titles. We have heard from some VERY enthusiastic fans around the world in the first few weeks of our debut, and we'd like to hear from more of you. If you or your retailer do something creative to promote our books, let us know about it. Send in a picture or something to document what you've done, and we'll send you something cool for free - like a gold foil limited edition of one of our books signed by the creative team. There will only be a few hundred of these available for most of our #1 issues, and very few will be signed.

AVATAR CONTEST #2: Trivia time! Be among the first 10 fans to answer these questions and win a cool gold signed edition of one of our titles. (1) Which Avatar staffer has a mysterious high-tech corporation named after him in Lookers #1? (2) What is the name of the company that Pandora owns? (3) How old is Donna Mia? You may enter by card, letter, or email. Only one entry per person, please. Send entries to Avatar Press at the address at the top of the page, and please include your name, address, and phone number. Entries are not returnable and become property of Avatar Press. Good Luck!

JORMUNGAND
DIGITAL COMICS PRESERVATION

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